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SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I would venture to say that this is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that this body is going to consider this year, especially if you have some concerns with the future quality of the water in Nebraska. It is estimated that, out of the 25,000 pivots that we now have in this state that are operating, anywhere from 5 to 50 percent of those pivots are probably utilizing the form known as chemigation. Better estimates put it somewhere around 30 percent that farmers are using the art of chemigating. Chemigation can mean putting chemicals, such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, through a center pivot, injecting that into the water where it is then applied to the crops. It is probably a more efficient way of applying this particular form of insectigating your crops and also fertilizing your crops. The bill was brought to the committee. It basically does a number of things. I have passed around both a summary of the committee amendments and a copy of the committee amendments. I will briefly try and explain what the bill does and how the committee amendments apply to the bill itself. Specifically, LB 284 moderates and regulates chemigation by providing for a permit for each injection location. It provides for an inspection and approval of equipment used for chemigating. It provides for training and certification of chemigators. It also provides an annual and renewal fee, provides periodic inspections of the sites by the NRDs. It also sets out criteria for the loss of a chemigating permit. It also provides that NRDs shall report to the Department of Environmental Control their findings on chemigation. It also provides, and this is an important part, posting of fields where chemigation is taking place. In case of an accident, it provides that a 24-hour notice shall be given to the NRDs and the Department of Environmental Control so that they may begin to take steps to eradicate the problem of an accident. It also provides for an affirmative defense for a chemigator who has followed all the procedures set forth in the Nebraska Chemigation Act, to provide that in case an accident occurs that you are basically not liable, or at least not to the extent of being sued. And it also provides that...a number of penalty sections in case you do not comply with the Nebraska Chemigation Act. The committee amendments do, I think, some very important things. First of all, it defines what an applicator is. That would be a new section, number